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ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for the year -

1925.

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

R E P O R T of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925.

The Annual Report for 1925 is, by direction of the Ministry of Health, to be a Survey Report. A Survey Report is called for at intervals of five years, and differs from the intervening modified Annual Reports in dealing more comprehensively with important changes in the public health services during the period, and generally as to the progress of improvement of the public health.

NATURAL and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area (Acres). 125,207.

Population (Census 1921) 21,960. (Estimated 1925) 22,530.

The District is a very large one, some 22 miles in length by some 14 in extreme breadth, its area being 125,207 acres. The river Severn runs through it from north-west to south-east, dividing it into two parts, of which the Northern and smaller part is continuous with the Midland plain, on the new Red Sandstone. The general elevation of this part is from 200 to 300 feet O.D. The Southern and larger part is more elevated, rising gradually from the river, southward and westward, from 200 to some 600 feet O.D., with considerably greater elevations on the hillsides which form the western and southern borders. The geological formation of this part is broken and diverse. The hills are the outliers of the Archaean, Cambrian, and Silurian ranges of Wales and Shropshire. There are also detached but considerable exposures of the coal measures and of the Permian Red Sandstone. There is in both parts a variable, but generally considerable, thickness of drift overlying the strata. The drainage is, on both sides, to the Severn, by numerous small tributary streams. The Borough and County town of Shrewsbury lies nearly in the centre of the district.

The district is rural in character, for the most part fertile and highly cultivated, supporting a comparatively large agricultural population, distributed in numerous villages, in smaller hamlets, and largely also in scattered isolated dwelling-houses. The density of population is equal to about 115 persons to the square mile. A few collieries are worked around Hanwood but many of the small coal-fields are abandoned. Extensive quarries of Quartzite Stone, for road metal, are worked at Pontesbury, and there are works of the Shropshire Mining Co., at Maelhurst for washing and bleaching of Barytes. There are Creameries at Minsterley and Dorrington.

In immediate proximity to the town and Borough of Shrewsbury there lies to the south of the town the old residential village of Meole Brace, where a slow but continuous extension of building of houses, chiefly of artisans dwellings has been in progress for many years. Adjoining the town on its northern border is an area which has, especially in the past five years, shown evidence of industrial and residential development, with the probability of future large extension. In this, the Harlescott area, The Sentinel Steam Wagon Co., has erected its works, and has built one hundred houses for its employés. A large area is occupied also by the Royal Air Force, Mechanical Transport Repair Depôt. More recently the Chatwode Safe Co., has acquired a large area for the immediate erection of works, and also for about a hundred dwelling houses. Some villas, and a number of small houses of ~~irregular~~ bungalow type have been erected independently along the main roads, and the Council, recognising the desirability of regulating future developments, decided during the year on a Town Planning Scheme to

include an area large enough to cover any probable future developments. The Scheme has since been approved and includes an area of 3250 acres.

Number of inhabited houses (1921) 4699.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 4739.

Ratable Value £221,315.

Sum represented by a penny rate £640/10/ld.

| | Total. | M. | F. | |
|--------|------------------|-----|-------|------------------|
| Births | (Legitimate 374 | 192 | 182) | Birth Rate. 17.6 |
| | (Illegitimate 24 | 12 | 12) | |
| Deaths | 254 | 141 | 113 | Death Rate. 11.3 |

Number of women dying in consequence of Childbirth:-

From Sepsis, nil; from other causes 1.

Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births:-

Legitimate 56; Illegitimate 125; Total 60.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1.

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) 2.

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2.

| | <u>Atcham R.D.</u> | <u>England & Wales.</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Birth rate per 1,000 of population | 17.6 | 18.3 |
| Death rate " " " " | 11.3 | 12.2 |
| Infant death rate per 1,000 born | 60. | 75. |

Measles caused 1 death, scarlet fever 1, whooping cough 2, diphtheria 2, Influenza 3, pulmonary tuberculosis 8, other tuberculous disease 3, cancer 29. Three deaths were due to suicide, and 11 to other forms of violence.

The Birth rate was below the District's average, and the Death rate and infant death rate below those of the Country generally.

The following gives the average figures for the 5 years period 1921-25.

| | <u>Atcham R.D.</u> | <u>England & Wales.</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Birth rate per 1,000 of population | 19.3 | 19.9 |
| Death rate " " " " | 11.6 | 12.2 |
| Infant death rate per 1,000 born | 59.1 | 75.8 |

The General and Infant death rates compare favourably with those of the Country as a whole.

HEALTH SERVICES in the DISTRICT.

Hospitals.

Tuberculosis. Shirlett Sanatorium for early cases.
Prest Heath Sanatorium for advanced cases.
Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital for surgical
cases.

Children.

County Council's Babies Home at Wellington.

Smallpox.

The County Smallpox Hospitals at Ludlow and
Wellington.

Fever.

The Shrewsbury and Atcham Joint Isolation
Hospital at Monkmoor in the Borough of
Shrewsbury. The Joint Board was constituted
under Provisional Order in 1921, and the
Hospital enlarged and completed during the
5 years under review.

Ambulance. The County Council's motor ambulance is available
for infectious and other cases.

Laboratory Work. The County Council provides for bacteriological
examination in cases of Diphtheria, Enteric and Tuberculosis, by
arrangement with Birmingham University, free of cost.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. There is no Child Welfare Centre
or School Clinic in the District. The County Dispensaries for
Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases at Shrewsbury are available
for the District.

Public Health Staff. The public health officers of the Council
are the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector; both
are whole time officers, - the former being M.O.H. to the South West
Salop Combined Districts. Salary contributions are received by
Exchequer grant.

Nursing. General. By the District nurses of the Shropshire Nursing
Federation in parishes where an association has been formed. The
Local Authority is not concerned with the scheme of co-ordination
or the financial arrangements.

Infectious Disease. The County Council provides for Health
visiting and nursing assistance where necessary, for Measles,
Whooping Cough and Pneumonia in the case of children under 5 years
of age, and for cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum.

Midwives. The District Council does not employ or subsidise
midwives. The number practising in the district is 21.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, etc., in force.

Sections 29, 30, and 31 of the Public Health Acts (Amend-
ment) Act 1890, applying to slaughterhouses is in force.

Bye-laws, applying to the whole District are in force as
to nuisances, new streets and buildings, private scavenging,

and slaughterhouses. The Nuisance Bye-laws were remodelled and applied to the whole District in 1913. The Building Bye-laws, revised in 1913 and extended to the whole District, were under consideration during 1924 at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, and in 1925 a new Code was adopted, based upon the Ministry's Code with amendments made by the Council in accordance with the requirements of the District, after close and careful consideration.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

Water Supply. The Water Supply of the District is of varied origin and character there being a few public systems maintained by the Council, a considerable number of village systems of supply laid on to houses or to stand pipes, owned and maintained by private individuals, and for the remainder a large number of houses, singly or in groups, supplied by public wells and pumps maintained by the Council, or by private wells, the District being one in which for the greater part good natural subsoil water is available.

The village of Meole Brace is supplied by the top water from Moat Hall Colliery, collected and pumped to a reservoir near the pit head, and laid on to the houses by gravitation. During the five years under review steps taken by the Council and the Colliery owner have satisfactorily added to the safeguards against possibilities of contamination. These alterations were noted in detail in the Annual Report for 1922. The supply is constant except in very dry weather when it is regulated during certain hours.

The public supply to Pontesbury village is from springs and is laid on to the houses. During last year a stand pipe was placed at the bottom of Pontesbury Hill for the houses in that area.

The Bayston Hill and Lyth Hill district has a public supply from springs laid on.

As regards the developing Harlescott area, the Sentinel Garden Suburb, the Royal Air Force houses and some private houses are supplied with the Borough of Shrewsbury water by agreement between the Borough and District Councils.

The Chatwood Safe Company's New Works and houses in this area are to be supplied by a deep boring sunk by the Company. The borehole is some 457 feet deep, 14 inch in diameter in the upper 100 feet, and 12 inch diameter for the rest. The upper 19 feet is sunk through loam, boulder clay and gravel, the remaining depth being in sandstone of the Bunter measures. The bulk of the water was found at 168 feet, the Surveyor informs me.

A pumping test in April 1924 gave a yield of 10,000 gallons per hour for two hours, during which time the water level, which stood at 36 feet below ground level, was depressed six feet. I record these figures as the existence of a large available supply in the area has potentialities of marked advantage in the development of the District.

The various private village systems give 'Constant' supplies and are well maintained. In the various public and private supplies it is recorded that approximately 1066 houses have water laid on, or access to stand pipes.

Sixty houses were connected to public water supplies during the year.

During the year the Council acquired a well at Battlefield, in the Harlescott area, for the supply of several houses erected during the past year or two. This well is being reconstructed and will become a public well.

The public well at Merrington failed, and the Council decided to bore from the bottom of the existing dug well, which is 84 feet deep, in order to reach the underlying Bunter beds. The boring was carried down some 40 or more feet and a good yield of water reached.

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The villages of Church Pulverbatch and Castle Pulverbatch are somewhat deficient in supply, and the sinking of two public wells should be considered. Portions of Bickton parish are also not well provided, owing to scarcity of subsoil water. In the case of the new Council houses here a supply was laid on from the County Asylum source.

Stream Pollution. No instances of evident pollution came under notice. There was no pollution recorded during the year from the two Creameries at Minsterley and Dorrington.

The Council took part in an intensive survey of the River Severn on June 10th organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Samples were taken from the river in its course of about 40 miles through the District. The results were very regular, showing no marked deoxygenation in any part.

Sewerage and Drainage. The village of Meole Brace is sewered throughout, with closets on the water carriage system, and outfall works. Pontesbury village is also sewered, with outfall works, but few W.C.'s., as the water supply is not adequate for general conversion of closets to water carriage. In the new Harlescott area, the Sentinel Suburb, Royal Air Force Depot and houses, and a number of new villa houses, are at present connected to the Borough sewers by extensions laid by the Council. Bayston Hill is sewered, with outfall works, serving the majority of the houses.

The Council maintains some lengths of sewers in various villages, for slop-water drainage, without outfall works, other than tanks with overflows, and attended to by the Surveyor's Department. The majority of individual houses and of small groups, drain their slop water on to garden ground or into streams or ditches. Nuisances from this disposal are rarely met with.

There has been some recent building development on the Longden Road, outside the S.W. boundary of the Borough. Complaint of nuisance from cesspit disposal has occurred once or twice, and if further building development occurs the question of sewerage should be considered.

Minsterley village is a fairly compactly built area which is only partially and inadequately sewered and drained, and improvement in this respect might well be considered.

Closet accommodation. The Sanitary Inspector gives the following figures:

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------|------|
| Approximate | No. of water closets | 953 |
| " | " earth " | 1167 |
| " | " privies | 2857 |

Number of conversions to W.C.'s during past five years, in populous centres - 12.

Number of privies converted to earth closets during these five years - 58.

Scavenging. There is no public system for removal of house refuse, or cleansing of earth closets and privies. Householders make their own arrangements for removal, or dispose of refuse in their gardens, without nuisance arising. The Council has provided a 'Tip' for Pontesbury village at the outfall works.

Smoke Abatement. No cause for action has arisen.

Schools. Deficiencies in water supply or sanitary accommodation which are found in the case of non-provided schools at times are difficult of solution owing to the financial position of the school property. At Pontesbury C.E. Schools the earth closets were converted to W.C.'s a few years ago.

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey (Including inspections under Housing, Town Planning Act). | - | - | 224 |
| Number of legal notices sent | - | - | nil |
| Number of informal notices sent | - | - | 37 |
| Number of such notices complied with | - | - | 35 |
| Number of letters written | - | - | 381 |

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:

| | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease | 5 |
| (b) Deficient or objectionable water supply | 7 |
| (c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended | 25 |
| (d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction | 18 |
| (e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition | 12 |
| (f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds | 10 |
| (g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance | 7 |
| (h) Houses overcrowded | 10 |
| Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis). | 57 |
| Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis | 12 |
| Privies converted to water closets | 2 |
| Privies converted to earth closets | 9 |
| Plans for new houses passed | 83 |
| Certificates issued for water supply to new houses | 43 |
| Houses connected to public water supply | 60 |
| Repairs to public pumps and wells | 8 |
| New public wells | 1 |
| Private wells re-constructed or improved | 5 |
| Houses connected to public sewerage | 52 |
| Lengths of new sewers laid | nil |
| Lengths of new water mains laid | nil |

Proceedings before Magistrates: Nil.

Remarks: The certificates issued for water supply to new houses do not include 38 houses erected by the Air Ministry at Harlescott.

P. J. DIGWOOD.

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions. These are as a whole, fair. There has been more building of new houses, by the Council and privately, than in most rural districts in this County, and a higher rate of improvement in the condition of old houses of the cottage class. In recent reports I have noted many instances of satisfactory work recorded by the Sanitary Inspector who has given careful attention to this side of his work of inspection. Many instances of enlargement of small cottages by adding a story or an extra room and of general overhaul have been noted. There remain however, as in most rural areas, a large number of old structures, which by want of space, or on account of defects due to faults of construction or to decay due to age, fall below a satisfactory modern standard. The cost of repair work and the economic scale of rents stand in the way of much improvement. The reconditioning of old rural cottage property will, it may be hoped, be made capable of more rapid progress under the Rural Housing Act now foreshadowed.

Houses absolutely unfit for habitation are only exceptionally met with. Two such were dealt with last year, and during the past 5 years four houses have been formally represented as 'Unfit'.

Overcrowding. Ten cases of overcrowding were met with last year, and 37 cases have come to light in the inspections of the past five years. Overcrowding does not present a serious problem. Such cases as are found being generally those of large families in small houses, rather than those due to the taking in of lodgers, or of another family. The cases are dealt with wherever possible by the Inspector's notices, and statutory action is seldom necessary.

As regards overcrowding on the standard of percentage of population living more than 2 persons per room the 1921 Census showed 6.6 per cent as compared with 7.3 per cent in 1911.

As regards building development in the past 5 years, a total of 309 houses have been built. Of these 90 were built by the Council under their Municipal Housing Scheme, and 60 have been built by private persons with State assistance under the Housing Acts.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

| | | | |
|---|---|-----|----|
| (a) Total | - | - | 81 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts: | | | |
| (i) By the Local Authority | - | nil | |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | - | 35 | |

1. Unfit dwelling houses.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Inspection - (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 224 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. | 89 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 2 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 5 |

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. | 5 |
|--|---|

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.- Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | - | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:- | - | nil |
| (a) by owners | - | nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | - | nil |

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close -

nil

B.- Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | - | 30 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:- | - | 28 |
| (a) by owners | - | nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | - | nil |

C.- Proceedings under sections 11, 14, & 15, of the Housing Act, 1925.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | - | - | 2 |
| % (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | - | - | 1 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | - | - | nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | - | - | nil |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | - | - | nil |

% The Closing Order was made at end of year.

In regard to the other representation of unfitness the owner voluntarily closed and demolished.

Housing Repairs. The most important work carried out during the year was briefly as follows:- The owner thoroughly improved two cottages at Montford Bridge. The living and sleeping rooms were remodelled, the roofs stripped and the walls raised, which now gives the much needed additional "Headroom." Each house is in consequence provided with three bedrooms, having previously had one and two respectively.

A house at Bayston Hill has been improved by the addition of an extra living and sleeping room.

Two cottages at Cardiston were converted into one house in accordance with plans submitted.

Improvement to a cottage at Somerwood has been carried out, and a new bedroom provided. The house will now have three sleeping rooms.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops for the Year.

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register | | 226 |
| Number of premises - cowsheds | - | 223 |
| dairies | - | 8 |
| milkshops | - | nil |
| Number of inspections | - | 324 |
| Defects found (1) in cowsheds - | | |
| (a) floor or cubic space | - | nil |
| (b) ventilation | - | 8 |
| (c) Lighting | - | 8 |
| (d) structure of floor | - | 12 |
| (e) drainage | - | 12 |
| (f) cleanliness | - | 68 |
| (2) in surroundings of cowsheds | - | 4 |
| (3) in sanitary condition of drains | - | 3 |
| (4) in sanitary condition of milkshops | - | -- |
| (5) in water supply | - | - |
| Number of notices - verbal and written | - | 84 |
| Number of these notices complied with | - | 78 |
| Number of defects found and not yet remedied | - | 6 |

The following are Mr. Digwood's report of action taken under the Milk, Meat, and Bakehouses Orders and Regulations:-

No action was taken as regards tuberculous milk. Under the 1925 Tuberculosis Order, notice was received that a cow had been reported by the owner to the police. A visit was paid to the farm from which milk was supplied, as regards the necessary precautions to be taken. On examination by the Veterinary Surgeon the cow was afterwards removed from the farm for slaughter at a knackers premises.

No application was made for a licence for sale of milk under Special Designations.

There was no refusal or revocation of Registration of Retailer.

MEAT. 1. Arrangement for Inspection at time of Slaughtering.

Inspections are continually made at the actual time of, or immediately following slaughtering, as far as is practicable. Surprise visits are also paid at other times.

2. Arrangements for Marking Meat. Nil.

3. Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores & vehicles.

There are no butchers stalls in the District.

In three cases where the slaughterhouse was also used as a "Shop", I have to report that upon my request two new shops were built, and the premises of another butcher were remodelled, and separate accommodation was thus provided for the slaughtering.

I have had no occasion to complain in the conveyance of meat in vehicles. Many of the butchers in this district have "Covered" motor vans. A few have carts with the usual trade wood tops, and where the open cart is used the meat is protected by covering.

Where butchers' shops abut on the public highway windows are provided for the protection of the meat against dust. No carcases or parts are hung outside. The shops were maintained in a cleanly condition.

It has not been necessary to report any slaughterhouse occupier, and due notices have been received of slaughtering.

The various grocers' shops which come under the Regulations are kept satisfactorily.

Private Slaughter Houses.

| | <u>1920.</u> | <u>In January 1925.</u> | <u>In December 1925.</u> |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Registered | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Licenced | 15 | 18 | 18 |
| | <u>17</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>20</u> |

In two cases no slaughtering has been carried on during the year.

Three other slaughter house occupiers do not kill any bovines, the required beef being obtained wholesale from Shrewsbury.

The whole of 20 bovine livers found on inspection after slaughter to be unfit, were surrendered and destroyed.

The whole of 12 sheep's livers were also destroyed as unfit.

Portions of livers from 8 bovines were unfit, and destroyed.

The carcases with organs of 5 pigs were found affected with "Generalised" tuberculosis and subsequently destroyed.

Fourteen pigs heads were on examination tubercular and destroyed.

The heads of two beasts on being found to be affected with tubercle were destroyed.

Thirteen bovine lungs were tuberculous and destroyed.

From other causes the carcases of 5 pigs with organs were unfit for food and destroyed.

Emergency Slaughter. Following receipt of the necessary notices under the Regulations, the carcases of one sheep and three pigs were condemned. Four pigs and one sheep were passed with the exception of the injured portion.

Other Foods. Unsound Food. Action taken. Nil.

Bakehouses. The bakehouses in the district have generally been kept in a sanitary condition. In a few cases the time of limewashing in accordance with the Factory Act, has allowed to become overdue, but on representation the work has been attended to.

With the exception of bakeries there are few other places where food is prepared in the District. These were found satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the past five years the number of cases of the principal notifiable diseases, notified or discovered, was as follows.

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>1921-25</u> | <u>Total Cases notified.</u> | <u>Cases admitted to hospital.</u> | <u>Total Deaths.</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 227 | 104 | | 6 |
| Diphtheria | 122 | 51 | | 8 |
| Enteric Fever | 14 | - | | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 3 | - | | 1 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 3 | 3 | | - |

Scarlet Fever has been scattered in incidence, generally in sporadic form, without localised epidemics of any marked degree. The percentage of cases removed to hospital was 46, and the case mortality 2.7 per cent.

Diphtheria has shown no noticeable epidemic form, and has shown a progressive diminution from 46 cases in 1921 to 15 cases in 1925. The percentage of cases removed to hospital was 42, and the case mortality 6.5 per cent.

The facilities for bacteriological examination provided by the County Council are freely used, and Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the District Council, free of cost to cases of the poorer class, through a local chemist who supplies medical men upon request. Antitoxin is in general use in all but very slight cases.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health's Memorandum of July, 1922, the Council instructed their contracting chemist to hold and supply antitoxin in phials containing 8,000 units for treatment and 500 units for prophylactic purposes.

Enteric Fever. Of the 14 cases notified 12 occurred among inmates of the Salop Mental Hospital. These were isolated in that Institution, and search made by the Medical Staff for 'Carriers.'

Encephalitis Lethargica. Two cases were notified in 1921, of whom one died, and the other made a good recovery. One case occurred in 1925 and was treated in the Royal Salop Infirmary.

Acute Poliomyelitis. Two cases were notified in 1922 in children living in the same village, and attending the same school. One case occurred in 1924. All three were promptly removed for treatment to the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

| Disease | Total cases notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Small-pox | - | - | - |
| Scarlet fever | 68 | 34 | 1 |
| Diphtheria | 15 | 7 | 2 |
| Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid) | - | - | - |
| Puerperal fever | 2 | 1 | - |
| Pneumonia | 9 | - | 13 |
| Erysipelas | 5 | - | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 1 | 1 | - |
| Dysentery | 1 | - | - |

Tuberculosis.

| Age-Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|----------------|------------|----|----------------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 5 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 25 | - | 3 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| 35 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 45 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| 55 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and upwards | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 6 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 |

| Ophthal- mia Neona- torum. | Cases | | | | Vision un-im- paired. | Vision im- paired. | Total Blind- ness. | Deaths. | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| | Notified. | Treated | | At home. | | | | | | | | |
| | | At home. | In Hospital. | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | - | - | - | | | | |

Scarlet Fever was more prevalent than in 1924, 68 cases occurring as against 36. A large number of parishes all over the District were slightly affected, but no localised epidemic occurred. The disease was of mild nature as a rule.

Diphtheria. Fifteen cases occurred, of which 8 were at Bayston Hill in the last 3 months of the year. I made a special investigation among the school children, and took a number of swabs but no other cases or 'Carriers' were discovered. One case here was fatal. The other death occurred in Cound parish, where a child died on the 3rd day of illness and a post mortem examination showed Diphtheria.

Encephalitis Lethargica. One case was notified from the Royal Salop Infirmary in an elderly man working on the land. When visited some weeks after discharge from the Infirmary he was still in a partially disabled state.

M. GEPP.

Medical Officer of Health.

18th November, 1926.

